

Planning Commission Meeting
January 19, 2011
Verbatim Excerpt

2232-B09-31 – T-MOBILE NORTHEAST, LLC

After the Close of the Public Hearing

Chairman Murphy: Public hearing is closed; recognize Ms. Harsel.

Commissioner Harsel: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you fellow Commissioners, but most of all, I thank you four – the four speakers that came out and sat through the first part of the meeting and stayed with us. Also, they did come to a meeting. They did come to -- one of them came to the balloon tests that we went to. This is always a hard thing when something new is introduced into an area. We used to think -- when people wanted to bring townhouses, we'd hear the complaints. And now we're down to mono-pines. But whatever it is, any change seems to bring something, you know, angst within this. I'm not saying it's good. And I'm not saying it's bad. I think if you didn't react to change, that's when I would get worried. The health issue has been raised. I'll be truthful with you. I have to side with those that say we may, you know, come down. But this is a very popular thing that's going around the country, around this area. In-house coverage, please! There is nothing worse than walking down the street and having someone on their front porch screaming into their cell phone because they don't hear -- they can't get it inside the house. Young people today are doing away with land lines. So this is -- you can call it "on the cusp of the industry coming". I understand the convention they just had in Las Vegas. We have no idea what's coming. And what's coming is going to demand more and more cells. And if we're -- as Mr. Murphy says, if you're out buying these things, we're going to have to provide service for you, and everything. I'm glad we have a device now that we can, maybe, start to get a handle on the health thing. I would say, I would join with Mr. Lawrence, but my "hobby horse" is not to hear -- not text in the cars. And they're going to fix that. My "hobby horse" is: Let's find a way -- remember when the television antennas came and they were all up on the roofs and everything? And how do they come now? Underground. They're the same thing. And I would like to see the industry start now, instead of inventing new things, where you pick up the telephone, you see the person on the other end. Heavens, you know, I'm not going to answer my phone 'til noon, 'til I have time to get dressed, and comb my hair if that's coming! But put your energy into finding a less obtrusive way to run these things. And that's very simply said. However, Mr. Chairman, that's neither here nor there. It's late. I appreciate all the Commissioners staying with me. I'm glad -- I bet you're glad that we only have Braddock cases once a year. But we're going to have more this year.

Chairman Murphy: Once every 25 years.

Commissioner Harsel: But it was worth it, wasn't it?

Chairman Murphy: Oh, it was an adventure.

Commissioner Hall: No.

Commissioner Harsel: Mr. Chairman, as I explained earlier, we can only look at this in the terms of character, location, and extent. As far as character, we do have trees around this. It's in the eye of the beholder, but putting a mono-pine here does keep it in character. The location is in an industrial area. Unfortunately, it's surrounded by residential. There is some commercial. I was surprised that the two daycare centers next door have not surfaced one way or the other. We did get an email today from someone who said they want it, but they live in Burke. They live in Burke Center down here. The extent, yes, I'm going to go on extent from the standpoint they have reduced it from 150 to 137 feet. That tries to bring it more level. We have some of these mono-pines that are, like, a mono-pine in the middle of the desert. You know it's there. This one, I think, will be fairly disguised. So therefore, Mr. Chairman, in accordance with *Virginia Code* Section 15.2-2232, as amended by staff, I MOVE THAT THE PLANNING COMMISSION FIND THE PROPOSAL BY T-MOBILE NORTHEAST AND VERIZON FOR A TELECOMMUNICATIONS FACILITY, WHICH IS a 137-FOOT TREE POLE, AT THE SHURGARD STORAGE, IN CONFORMANCE WITH THE PLAN, AND I RECOMMEND WE APPROVE SUCH APPLICATION.

Commissioner Hall: Second.

Chairman Murphy: Seconded by Ms Hall. Is there a discussion of the motion? All those in favor of the motion to approve 2232-B09-31, say aye.

Commissioners: Aye.

Chairman Murphy: Opposed? Motion carries.

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(The motion carried unanimously with Commissioner Sargeant absent from the meeting.)

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